



**Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017, commencing at 7pm.**

**Present:**

Heather Hall (Chair), Joan Tidy, Anne Evans, Sheila Hughes, Frances Prockter, Graham White, Jan Ashford and Richard Berrington

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Liz Lenton, Janet Macdonald, Pat Charge and Ian Humphries.

**2. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting(s)**

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were circulated and approved as a true record.

**3. Finance and Fundraising**

**Finance**

Joan stated that statements had been received and the accounts balanced.

Payments: DD £35.94p for website maintenance

Receipts: 0.04p interest on the reserve account

Current account stands at £1976.69p, reserve account stands at £5020.89p

Joan states the books are still with Clare for auditing

**4. Communications and Notifications**

All emails forwarded to all members:

- i) Email received from a resident who has grown an oak tree sapling from an acorn and has asked if we would like to plant it on one of our sites.

**Resolved: All agreed that we would plant the tree in the autumn, site to be decided.**

- ii) Email received from C&RT inviting volunteers to the East Midlands Volunteer Celebration event at Nottingham Forest FC on the evening of Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**Resolved: Unfortunately on this occasion no members were available to attend.**

**5. Reports and Evaluations from other meetings/events attended**

**Site meeting in Cardales Meadow to discuss creating a butterfly bank Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

This item will be discussed under item 6 Project Planning.

**6. Project Planning**

**i) Creating a butterfly bank Cardales Meadow**

Present at the meeting were: Cllr Mary Goodall, Cllr Brian Goodall, Cllr Richard Brook and Cllr Martin Woodhouse (FPC), Ken Orpe (Derbyshire Recorder Butterfly Conservation) and his wife Pat, Findern residents Brian and Jean Hallam, and group members Joan Tidy, Heather Hall, Jan Ashford and Pat Charge. Subject to there being no objections from the Highways Agency (the landowner) and the farmer

who owns the neighbouring field it is proposed to create a bank 17 metres long, 3 metres wide and 1.5 metres high 2.5 metres away from the hedge. It is hoped to create 3 shallow ponds at the bottom of the meadow in a marshy area and to use the soil from these for the bank which would then be covered with limestone chatter and planted with bird's foot trefoil and other butterfly friendly plants. Ken stated that he may be able to get the limestone chatter for free but we would have to pay for delivery which could cost up to £800. We would also need to hire a JCB and driver and possibly a dumper truck and driver.

Resolved at the meeting Joan will contact the Highways England and Heather will arrange a meeting with Mr Barker, the owner of the neighbouring field.

Since the site meeting Joan states she has received emails from Ken, one stating he can get the limestone chatter for nothing and another with a quote from Atlow Contracting stating a driver and JCB would cost £34.50 per hour minimum 8 hours, if the 5t excavator was required this would cost £32.50 per hour minimum 8 hours but this would incur a delivery charge of £120 del/col.

Joan further stated she had today received a reply from Highways England stating that **“At some point in the future the land could be required for Highways Operational purposes, therefore Findern Parish Council could be required to remove the bank and make good the land, would the PC be happy to accept this responsibility?”** He also asked **“is there any potential of the bank gaining an environmental protection status which would block its removal should Highways England require the land?”** Joan has forwarded his email reply to Clare, Findern Parish Clerk, for the council to discuss this at their next meeting.

**Resolved: This item is to be added to the next agenda for further discussion/update**

**ii) Butterfly Transect 2017**

Rota completed for May/June

**Resolved: This item is to be added to the next agenda for update**

## **7. Event Planning**

**i) Dawn Chorus Walk Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

Meet at Lower Green at 5 am. Heather has a list of 9 names requiring breakfast and will give Lindsay at Bees Teas the money on Friday morning.

**ii) Bat Box check Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

Joan, Heather, Pat and Frances will meet members of the Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group on the bridge over the canal by the Nadee Restaurant at 10 am. Joan will propose to the Bat Group that we purchase one or more bat boxes to be put on the trees in Cardales Meadow.

**iii) Summer evening walk Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

Meet on the Village Green at 7 pm. Joan has done the posters which will be put in the notice boards nearer the time. She will email a copy of the poster to Jan for the Resource and to forward to Kate to put on our Facebook page, and to Richard to put on the Findern Village Community Facebook page. Heather agreed to take bookings for refreshments.

**Resolved: This item is to be added to the next agenda for any last minute changes.**

**iv) Findern village fete Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

Unfortunately some members are away and others are committed to other groups taking part in the fete so it was decided that we did not have enough members free to be able to take part ourselves.

**v) Priory Way walk Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

Meet on Lower Green at 6.30 pm. This walk is partly to take photographs for the new leaflet and partly to let the residents see the improvements made. Joan will do posters nearer the time. Joan, Heather, Frances, Jan and Graham will do the walk. Heather states she will contact Lynn Taylor, Footpaths Officer DCC, for more waymark arrows to be put up during the walk and to ask for new finger posts to replace damaged ones.

**Resolved: This item is to be added to the next agenda for update.**

## **8. Public Rights of Way Reports**

Rushy Meadow Way

A resident had reported damage to a wooden plank over the brook. Heather will liaise with the landowner re repair.

**9. Wildlife Site Management**

Before discussing site management mention was made of the fact that we can't gain access to the garages at the back of the parish rooms unless the tea rooms are open as their alarms are linked. Heather stated that the Parish Council are aware of this and are looking at a separate alarm system for the garages so we can have access at all times.

**i) Hours of work carried out by the payback team**

Heather stated the team came out on 8<sup>th</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> April and carried out a total amount of 84 hours unpaid work for and on behalf of the community.

**ii) Hours of work carried out on the canal towpath**

Heather stated she had carried out a total of 8 hours work on the towpath during April.

**iii) Working Party May**

Frances states on the last working party (29<sup>th</sup> April) there were only 3 members present and they cleared round seats and 'A' frames. It was suggested that as it was a bank holiday weekend some members were away. It was agreed that May's working party would be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May and it was agreed to clear the seats and stiles along Airport/Little Derby Way. Joan and Graham will meet at the post box Hillside j/w Porters Lane at 7pm, Heather will pick Richard up at 7.30pm and start at the A38 end. Graham and Richard said as soon as the situation re access to the garage is sorted out they would agree a rota amongst themselves (and including Ian) to undertake the mowing so the payback team could get on with other things such as clearing the Himalayan Balsam along the towpath which will be soon be showing.

**10. Wildlife Database**

Joan reported that her neighbour has a Hedgehog resident in her front garden.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

Before deciding the date of the next meeting Jan stated that she had volunteered to do the minutes in July when Joan is away but that she now has another engagement so she will also be away and would anyone else like to volunteer. No one did so this will be raised at the next meeting.

***Resolved: The next meeting will be held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Thursday 1st June 2017 commencing at 7pm and will be chaired by Heather Hall.***

**Signed.....Dated.....**